

The GLOBE Gazette



Welcome to the GLOBE Gazette, a monthly update on the progress of GLOBE, designed to keep our donors, members, and other stakeholders informed on current activities.

Fall 2010 Recap

The GLOBE managers held their end-of-the-semester public presentations on December 7th, and shared their team accomplishments with family, friends, colleagues, and supporters of GLOBE.

Alum Jenai Mapp-Watson and Mark Braithwaite shared their experiences as former GLOBE managers and Dr. Linda M. Sama, director and Dean of Global Initiatives at the Tobin College of Business, spoke about the growth of the program and its newest set of borrowers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The GLOBE class of Fall 2010 ended the semester with a wealth of knowledge on microfinance and a warmer outlook on life, after experiencing the “human” aspect of business firsthand.

A number of achievements were highlighted, including the Treat For Change Event held in October. This Halloween-themed event coupled with a bake sale, featured members of the Fall 2010 GLOBE class and members of GLOBE GAP, who wore blue superhero capes decorated with the

slogan “The Real Superheroes... Our Borrowers” and a photo of one of our borrowers. The students successfully encouraged members of the St. John’s community to donate pocket change in exchange for candy. Treat for Change in addition to other fundraising efforts made by last semester’s group of GLOBE managers resulted in a record amount of money raised in any GLOBE semester since the program’s inception.

GLOBE also welcomed the GLOBE Graduate Affiliate Program (GAP) into the fold as an advisory group of graduate students.

Since the inception of GLOBE (Global Loan Opportunities for Budding Entrepreneurs) students have given out 20 loans: 5 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9 in Kenya, and 6 in Nigeria.



We Believe...

that microlending will only successfully alleviate poverty if loans are designed with the borrowers in mind, and not the other way around. Microfinance is not a field firms should enter to reap large monetary rewards or high returns on investment. When done correctly, profits for firms are minimal, but the quality of living in the communities in which microlending is successful increases dramatically because borrowers are empowered to help themselves and their neighbors. In recent years, it appears that many institutions have lost sight of the fact that many borrowers have no idea how a bank works, never mind a loan. We know our borrowers well, and we know that people new to the banking system need assistance, financial education, and experience before they can successfully make the transition into conventional banking. We apply a 5% flat rate on every loan, not 28% or 34%. Through this small rate, students witness firsthand how microfinance works in developing countries, and borrowers become acclimated to working with loans with interest.

Undergraduate GLOBE Managers Spring 2011

Accounting, Program Audits &
Enterprise Development

Oluwabukola Ayeni

Diego Salvado

Deidre Smith

Qiudan (Lily) Yu

Alexander Zugaro

Kameshwari Chandra

Technology &
Communications

Axel Folz

Kevin Garcia

Joseph Hwalek

Aleksandra Prelovska

Cynthia Shivamber

Rachel Taylor

Marketing & Fund
Raising

Gamal Ahmed

Shyon Bose

Katherine Cartagena

David Law

Alina Rizvi

Nicole Tonis

Finance & Risk Assessment

Elizabeth Janson

Alexander Lam

Rita Mannino

Marco Sementilli

Mary Sheehan

Victoria Xu

GLOBE GAP Consultants

Andrew Barnes

Chanel Jennings

Elisa Martellaccio

Iaisha Smith

Julia Mignone

Karan LeWary

Mark Braithwaite

Michaelangelo LaRosa

Sanya Makhani

Suya Chen

Alleviating Global Poverty & Boosting the Economy through Microfinance Initiatives Chanel Jennings

At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day, and a majority of the entrepreneurs in this group lack access to basic banking services that would enable them to generate income or expand their businesses. This is especially true for the 1.02 billion underprivileged people who live in rural areas of developing countries. Good management of even the smallest number of resources, such as livestock or grain, can be crucial to improving the livelihood of the very poor who live in unstable conditions, and are constantly threatened by political corruption, social unrest, and lack of income, shelter and food. To triumph over poverty, they need to be able to borrow, save and invest.

Microfinance is one way of fighting poverty in rural areas. The process of using philanthropy as a means of creating funds for individuals to borrow provides the working poor with the opportunity to expand their businesses, provide for their families, produce resources for their communities and create jobs for their neighbors. Historically, governments of industrialized nations have attempted to boost the economic development of countries in need through charitable humanitarian aid and monetary donations, but recently, many groups such as GLOBE, MFCNY, The Grameen Foundation, The Kiva Organization and Accion International have made microcredit a consistently available and valuable tool in the fight to stabilize and grow developing communities. Microfinancing provided by these private and non-profit organizations has empowered the working poor to improve their quality of life, and with continued support, more organizations will join the fight to alleviate world poverty through fair lending.

The Spring 2011 managers, much like the GLOBE managers of the past will undoubtedly contribute their part to the GLOBE student mission, "We are committed to building a global community (starting here at St. John's) that is going to contribute to the goal of eradicating poverty within our lifetime."

Thank You for your continuous support of GLOBE !

For further information on current events and activities of GLOBE, please follow us on our social media sites or visit us @ www.stjohns.edu/globe

